

# Etoposide phosphate

*e-toe-POE-side*

**Brand Name:** Etopophos (phosphate salt), Toposar, VePesid



Etoposide, also known as VePesid, Etopophos, and Toposar, belongs to the class of medicines known as antineoplastics. These medicines slow the growth of cancer.

## **HIV/AIDS-Related Uses**

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Etoposide is being studied in HIV/AIDS clinical trials to see how safe and effective it is in treating AIDS-related non-Hodgkin lymphoma, a type of cancer that occurs frequently in people with AIDS. Etoposide is also used to treat Kaposi's sarcoma in people with AIDS. This medicine does not cure or prevent HIV infection or AIDS and does not reduce the risk of passing the virus to other people.

Etoposide is approved by the FDA for the treatment of cancer of the testicles and for a particular type of lung cancer known as small-cell lung carcinoma. Etoposide is also used to treat other kinds of cancer.

## **Dosage Information**

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Etoposide comes in soft gelatin capsule form that is taken by mouth and in liquid form that is given by injection into a vein.

## **Contraindications**

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Patients should tell a doctor about any medical problems before taking this medicine.

## **Possible Side Effects**

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Along with its desired effects, etoposide can cause serious unwanted effects. Symptoms of these effects include black, tarry stools; blood in urine or stools; chills or fever; cough or hoarseness; lower back or side pain; painful or difficult urination; red, pinpoint skin rash; unusual bleeding or bruising; and unusual tiredness or weakness. Individuals should tell a doctor if they have any of these side effects.

Other side effects may not be serious and may lessen or disappear with continued use of etoposide. These include change in taste; chills and fever; constipation; diarrhea; dizziness; general ill or tired feeling; hair loss (reversible); inflammation of veins; loss of appetite; mouth sores; nausea and vomiting; skin rash or itching; and stomach pain. A few HIV infected patients being treated with

etoposide have reported localized shingles outbreaks. Individuals should tell a doctor if these side effects continue or are bothersome.

Etoposide can, in rare cases, cause severe and sometimes fatal allergic reactions. A doctor should be notified right away if an individual taking etoposide has any of the following symptoms of a severe allergic reaction: chills; dizziness; fast or irregular heartbeat; fever; heavy perspiration; itching; lightheadedness or fainting; nausea; swelling of the face; trouble breathing; or vomiting. Rarely, severe allergic reactions have occurred during a patient's first treatment with IV etoposide with the following symptoms: back pain; fainting; swelling of the face and tongue; and tightness or spasms in the throat.

## **Drug and Food Interactions**

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A doctor should be notified of any other medications being taken, including prescription, nonprescription (over-the-counter), or herbal medications.

## **Clinical Trials**

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For information on clinical trials that involve Etoposide phosphate, visit the ClinicalTrials.gov web site at <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>. In the Search box, enter: Etoposide phosphate AND HIV Infections.

## **Manufacturer Information**

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Etoposide phosphate  
Bristol - Myers Squibb Co  
PO Box 4500  
Princeton, NJ 08543-4500  
(800) 321-1335

VePesid  
Bristol - Myers Squibb Co  
PO Box 4500  
Princeton, NJ 08543-4500  
(800) 321-1335

# ***Etoposide phosphate***



## **Manufacturer Information (cont.)**

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Toposar  
Pfizer Inc  
235 East 42nd Street  
New York, NY 10017-5755  
(800) 438-1985

Etopophos (phosphate salt)  
Bristol - Myers Squibb Co  
PO Box 4500  
Princeton, NJ 08543-4500  
(800) 321-1335

## **For More Information**

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Contact your doctor or an AIDSinfo Health  
Information Specialist:

- Via Phone: 1-800-448-0440 Monday - Friday,  
12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 5:00 p.m. ET
- Via Live Help: [http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/live\\_help](http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/live_help)  
Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 4:00 p.m. ET